

CITY OF BOULDER

CITY OF BOULDER'S WASTEWATER PROJECT

EXHIBIT

26

DATE

Jan. 14, 2013

HB

6 + 11

The present system is over 40 years old. The City of Boulder was added to the already existing Boulder River School and Hospital system in 1964. A third lagoon cell was added at that time. Costs of operation were to be shared.

The system serves the City of Boulder and 4 institutions; 2 State (Montana Developmental Center and Riverside Correctional, 2 Private (Elkhorn Treatment Center and Youth Dynamics, Inc.).

The Montana Department of Corrections deeded the City of Boulder 66 acres for present as well as new construction.

The City of Boulder has the wastewater system operating permit. That permit expires in 2015.

The current wastewater system is not meeting DEQ discharge requirements.

The present lagoon system is filling up and leaking. Wastewater is infiltrating ground water and ground water is entering the wastewater lagoons. The lagoons contain 6.6 million gallons of sludge.

One lagoon cell was breached in the last major flooding of the Boulder River and had to be rebuilt. The lagoons are located in the Boulder River floodplain.

The decision for a mechanical wastewater treatment plant will save over 1.1 million to 5.4 million dollars over other alternatives.

Delaying the project an additional 2 years until the next grant cycle would cost the City at least an additional \$30,000 for an update engineering report and grant applications, plus inflation and the potential increase from the current historically low interest rates for the \$4.8 million project.

Boulder scored 27 out of the 49 water/wastewater TSEP applications, missed the 25th place by 38 points out of 5,000. 27th was the initial funding line from TSEP/Dept. of Commerce, but the funding line was recently changed to the 25th project due to the Dept. of Commerce including approx. \$1.5 million for administration costs.

Boulder has one of the highest low/moderate income percentages (55%) among the projects listed to be funded.

In spite of the percentage of low income households, the project has substantial public support and the City has begun sewer rate increases in preparation for funding the proposed wastewater treatment system.

The loss of TSEP funding would make the project not viable and too costly for Boulder residents.

304 North Main Street
P.O. Box 68
Boulder, Montana 59632

(406) 225-3381 phone
(406) 225-9498 FAX